Incorporating ESL Outreach into Your Clinic Activities

with

Richard Carpenter, Esq.
University of San Diego, School of Law
Tax Clinic



Goals for this session

- Understand why ESL outreaches are important to our LITC program.
- Learn how to incorporate ESL outreaches into your LITC program.
- Share ideas and learn best practices.



Benefit to Students

 They learn a specific tax topic well (such as EITC).

They have a chance to speak before an audience.

 They learn how to explain technical tax terms using simple, everyday words.

- They develop a friendship with their fellow clinic classmates by:
 - car pooling to the outreaches;
 - practicing their outreach topics together, and;
 - maybe eating a meal together, before or after the outreach presentation.



- They develop an understanding that for some ESL individuals, even basic tax concepts are difficult to understand.
- They receive a sense of accomplishment for doing a service to the lower income community.
- The LITC outreach program usually identifies new tax cases for the students.

Benefits to the Community

 ESL Taxpayers have the opportunity to learn important tax information specifically designed for them.

 They have an opportunity to ask questions in an informal setting.

Topics These are some of the things we talk about in an outreach

- Who is required to file a federal tax return?
- Why you may receive a tax refund, even if you are not required to file?
- Which filing status is right for you?

- What is the difference between standard and itemized deductions?
- Who is eligible for the EITC?
- What is an ITIN?
- Q&A

Other Outreach considerations

Whether an interpreter is needed or useful.

Whether handouts should be translated into other languages.

Outreach Partners

- Community Organizations
 - Develop partnerships with other community agencies
- Adult Schools
 - ESL classes
 - Citizenship classes
- Community Program Organizers
 - Fairs

Advertising Outreach Programs

- Flyers! Lots and lots of flyers!
- Public Service Announcements
- Radio Broadcasts
- Public Access Television
- Newspaper ads
 - Ads in local community papers and newsletters

Questions?

Answers?



Ideas?